



National Crime Victims Week

Tuesday, April 12, 2011

Remarks by Gov. Jan Brewer

Thank you, Sean, and good morning, everyone!

I'm honored to be with you today, to announce that I have proclaimed this to be Arizona Crime Victims Rights week.

In my inaugural address last January, I said one of my missions was to ensure Arizona has a criminal justice system that is focused on justice, public safety ... and the rights of crime victims.

While we have accomplished a great deal, much more remains to be done.

Victims still don't get notice of all court proceedings, including for example critical ones like initial appearances and their voice is silenced as a result.

Victim's rights to a speedy trial and their rights to a prompt and final conclusion to their case after conviction are still being denied.

And, let me take this opportunity to recognize Steve Twist, one of the true heroes who CONTINUES to fight for the rights of crime victims.

Steve not only authored the Arizona Victims' Bill of Rights constitutional amendment when he was Arizona's chief assistant Attorney General -- but he's also a NATIONAL figure in advocating on behalf of crime victims. Steve, your mission is a righteous one and we're honored to have you fighting on the side of justice in Arizona!

I'm also honored at this time to be able to present the Governor's Triumph over Tragedy Award to Bobbi Sudberry.

The award was created to honor a surviving crime victim who has been able to move forward after the trauma of experiencing a crime and inspire others by their example.

Bobbi is president and co-founder of Kaity's Way, a non-profit corporation that promotes understanding to lessen the instances of violence among or against children through PEACE -- Patience, Empathy, Acceptance, Caring, Equality.

In January 2008, Bobbi's beautiful 17-year-old daughter, Kaitlyn, was gunned down by her ex-boyfriend; and Bobbi dedicated her time to implementing 'Kaity's Law' -- a law that protects victims of teen dating violence.

Bobbi, I am honored to present this award to you because you truly embody the meaning of the Governor's Triumph over Tragedy Award.

In closing, let me quote a part of my proclamation itself:

"WHEREAS, National Crime Victims' Rights Week provides an opportunity for us to reshape the future for victims by honoring the past and reflecting on the hard-won victories -- and to recommit to working together in providing the rights guaranteed to victims by our State Constitution, to help them overcome the harm caused by crime and so that they might be treated with dignity and respect; and

WHEREAS, the State of Arizona is joining forces with victim service programs, criminal justice officials, and concerned citizens throughout Arizona and America to raise awareness of victims' rights and observe National Crime Victims' Rights Week.

Now, therefore, I, Janice K. Brewer, Governor of the State of Arizona, do hereby proclaim April 10-16, 2011 as ARIZONA CRIME VICTIMS' RIGHTS WEEK."

Thank you.